

AMENDMENTS

Listing of Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all previous listings or versions thereof:

1. – 25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 25~~ claim 40, wherein the conditionally functional transforming oncogene is a temperature sensitive SV40 Large Tumor antigen (tsSV40Tag).

27. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein the tsSV40Tag is an A58S-SV40Tag.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the transforming oncogene is induced by culturing the antibody producing cells at from 25°C to 35°C.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the antibody producing cells are cultured at from 30°C to 35°C.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the antibody producing cells are cultured at 33°C.

31. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 25~~ claim 40, wherein single cells are selected and cultured to produce a monoclonal population that produce monoclonal antibodies.

32. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 25~~ claim 40, wherein multiple cells are selected and cultured to produce a polyclonal population that produce polyclonal antibodies.

33. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 25~~ claim 40, wherein the antibody-producing cell comprise spleen cells.

34. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 25~~ claim 40, wherein the antigen is selected from the group consisting of peptides, proteins, glycoproteins, lipoproteins, carbohydrates, viruses, bacteria, pathogenic microorganisms, tissue, whole cells, biopsy tissue, patient-derived cells, tissue extracts, fresh or cultured tissues, apoptotic cells, subcellular components, membrane, cytoplasm, and nuclear fractions from cells and tissues, purified proteins, partially purified proteins, laser captured tissue, paraffin embedded and fixed tissue.

35. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein the tissue comprises subject-derived tumor tissue.

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 25~~ claim 40, wherein the ~~antibody-producing cells are comprised in a mouse, and the~~ selected antigen is administered to the mouse, in a manner effective to induce the antibody-producing cells to produce antibodies.

38. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 25~~ claim 40, further comprising purifying antibodies produced by said antibody-producing cell.

39. (Canceled)

40. (New) A method for generating an antibody-producing cell that produces an antibody to a desired antigen comprising the steps of:

- (a) obtaining a transgenic mouse comprising antibody-producing cells that conditionally expresses a transforming oncogene or expresses a conditionally functional transforming oncogene, wherein immortalization of said antibody-producing cells may be effected by inducing the expression or function of said transforming oncogene;
- (b) administering the selected antigen to the mouse, or to antibody-producing cells obtained from the mouse, in a manner effective to induce the antibody-producing cells to produce antibodies against the antigen;
- (c) collecting the induced antibody-producing cells; and
- (c) immortalizing said antibody-producing cells without forming hybridomas by inducing the expression or function of said transforming oncogene.

41. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the genome of the transgenic mouse further comprises the genetic complement for human antibody production.